

# Congregational Profile for Holy Trinity Church, Dunfermline

Revised May 2022

Services



Reaching out



Youth work



Socialising





'The congregation of Holy Trinity represents a complete cross-section of the people who live and work in the town and comprises of all age groups, abilities, varied occupations, and interests.

The members of Holy Trinity are very welcoming to all newcomers. They are kind and supportive to each other and are willing to embrace new initiatives.'

*Malcolm*

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## Canonical District

While Holy Trinity Church serves the city of Dunfermline and the landward area of Fife to the west of the M90 motorway, our congregation is drawn from a wider catchment area across Fife.

With good access to all forms of transport links, Dunfermline, which is growing significantly, is a centre for industry and business. Dunfermline is situated in the central belt of Scotland, with great links into many of Scotland's great cities and scenery:

- Edinburgh: 40 minutes
- Perth: 35 minutes
- Stirling: 40 minutes
- Dundee: 60 minutes
- Glasgow: 50 minutes

Dunfermline has much history associated with it, not least being the ancient seat of Scottish royalty and a site of historic and religious significance.

Holy Trinity, Dunfermline is in the Diocese of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane of the Scottish Episcopal Church, whose Bishop is the [Right Reverend Ian Paton](#).

Holy Trinity is also part of the St Andrews West Area Council of the Diocese, and it sends representatives both to the Diocesan Synod and the Area Council.



This is the banner displayed throughout the pandemic to emphasise that the church is its people, and we were meeting in alternative ways.

## Our vision

In this very diverse and fast changing community we at Holy Trinity believe that churches must work in partnership to appeal and minister to this community. Many individual members of the congregation are involved in the life of the community with a number very active in local voluntary groups.

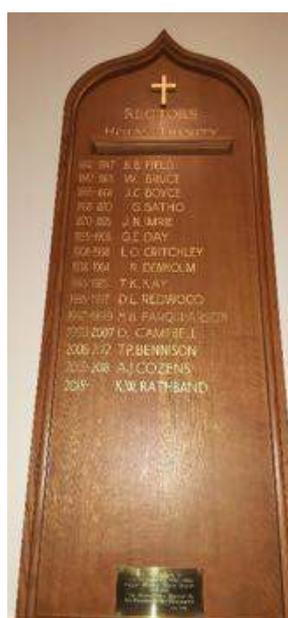
The church and vestibule were redecorated with two pews being removed to allow a children's area and IT desk to be created at the back of the church. More recently a new sign has been put up at the front of the church, and our new entrance is providing a much more open, welcoming and energy efficient space to greet visitors when they first arrive. Wi-Fi was made available within the office space in the Vestry area of the church, and we are in the process of expanding this to the rest of the building.

## Our Rector

We at Holy Trinity look forward to the prospect of welcoming and supporting a new Rector to share in our inclusive tradition of good pastoral ministry and to inspire, support, and develop the life of our congregation, encouraging and building on our many skills and strengths. The new incumbent will work with the children and young people in our communities as well as maintaining and developing the existing links within the church groups, and community.

We are keen to continue with the provision of training opportunities for newly ordained clergy, and those in training.

The appointment is subject to a satisfactory PVG Scheme Record Disclosure (Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007)



## People

### The Congregation

'Having been brought up in the Church of Ireland and then worshipped in various denominations including the Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Church of Scotland and Free Churches whilst accompanying my husband in his various postings within the Royal Air Force, we finally settled down in Dunfermline. Whilst walking in my new town, I noticed Holy Trinity and found my new spiritual home. I was welcomed with open arms and that feeling remains with me today. The HT family are very friendly, welcome all visitors and newcomers and make them feel at home.'

*Eve*



'We moved into the area from Southern England and set about looking for a local church. From looking at various churches' online presence, Holy Trinity had a comprehensive and informative website that gave us a good picture of what was going on, showing that it had a regular young church for our children, and an active youth fellowship for when they got older - something our daughter has now joined and really enjoys.

Churchmanship wise it also seemed to be striking a good balance between retaining a lot of traditional elements, alongside ensuring that younger people are welcomed and included. The first service we attended was the annual young church nativity, a great example of that blending of all ages in the one congregation. We got a warm welcome on that first visit, and really never looked back.'

*Richard*

In the Diocesan statistical return for 2021 the congregation has 166 members and 100 communicants. Attendance for the Thursday midweek service is between 15 and 25. The pre-pandemic attendance for our main Sunday service would range between 60 and 80 with 100 members attending special services. Currently in person attendance for the Sunday service is around 40, with additional people watching the service online either live or during the week.

In addition, taking the online statistics as at the beginning of May 2022, our impact comprises of over 750 website visitors per month, 90 YouTube subscribers with over 500 views a month of the 300 videos and counting, 50 followers on Instagram with over 100 posts, 188 likes on Facebook with 50 members of the Blether with Holy Trinity Dunfermline social group and over 100 receive the weekly email newsletter and pew sheet.

## The Vestry

Holy Trinity is administered by a Vestry chaired by the Rector consisting of a Rector's Warden (appointed by the Rector); a People's Warden, a Lay Representative, Alternate Lay Representative (elected annually); up to a maximum of six elected members, (elected for three-year terms); a Treasurer and a Secretary appointed by the Vestry. In total the Vestry can comprise of up to 13 members,

An Administrative Assistant is employed to support the Rector and Secretary whose duties amongst others include producing the Order of Service and Pew Sheets each week.

A Safeguarding Officer has been appointed as a non-voting member of the Vestry.

The Vestry meets about ten times a year and reports to an Annual General Meeting of the congregation that is normally held at the beginning of Advent after the Sunday service. Meetings have been held virtually throughout the pandemic and have resumed in person.



## Sacristan

'The post of Sacristan has been filled for many years by people who carry on the tradition of service to the altar. Breads, wine, and candles are always available, and the laundry is done each week.

The altar is prepared for every service and the Sacristan normally clears away after Sunday services. Holy Trinity is well supplied with altar hangings in the liturgical colours and the Sacristan is responsible for the changes.'

*Frances*



Members of the congregation help decorate the church for special services with large floral displays reflecting the season and occasion.



## Lay Ministry

Holy Trinity has a long tradition of lay involvement in services. Lay members of the congregation read the lessons, lead the intercessions, take part in the offertory procession, and are licensed to administer the chalice.

During lockdown many of the congregation recorded the readings at home each week to be included in the live broadcast and the varied offering of online services.

Holy Trinity have a team of volunteers who regularly visit local hospitals and care homes for pastoral support and a contact group that keeps touch with the whole community throughout the year.

The Bishop has also licensed some congregation members to conduct the service of Home Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

## Ordained Ministry

During the current interregnum ministry is being organised by the Diocesan Office. Holy Trinity's interim Rector is Very Rev'd Hunter Farquharson and we are lucky to have welcomed a range of guest celebrants during our vacancy.

## Children and Youth Work

### Young Church (YC)



Prior to the pandemic, Young Church, would meet during the 11am service on a Sunday. The children would sit with their family members during the first part of the service until the Psalm when they would leave the main congregation to go to the hall for child friendly activities. Pre-pandemic Holy Trinity would regularly have several families attending. The church still has contact with

these families, and a number watch our services online, however Young Church has not restarted yet following the lockdown restrictions.

The activities during YC would vary but the basic format included a Bible reading, generally a passage from one of the Gospels, a prayer and craft activity related to the reading/theme. Children were encouraged to contribute: to offer their thoughts and ideas; to ask questions.

All children are welcomed into church for a blessing or communion, and this has continued as restrictions eased.

There are occasional other activities for children and families throughout the year, for example the church recently held an all age Mothering Sunday service, and laid on an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday. YF also take a lead role in all age services.

The children's area at the back of the church is always available for activities during the service. Young families can make use of the resources and easy access to the vestibule with plenty of room for wheelchairs and/or buggies. This is an area the children feel a great sense of ownership of.



YC and YF have performed a Nativity at Christmas and hosted the 'Good Friday Happening' during Holy Week, when young people come together for a variety of themed activities, and refreshments and a short act of worship, which has been ongoing for well over 30 years.

### Fife Cluster Youth Fellowship

The Youth Fellowship is a major element in our church family. YF is for young adults halfway through P7 and upward meeting (usually) in the church hall every Sunday during term-times at 6.15pm for around an hour and a half.

YF has a core leadership team of 4, Andrew and Rachel both from Holy Trinity Dunfermline (HTD), James Gardner who is our Diocesan Youth Officer and Rev'd Canon Christine Fraser, Rector at St Peter's Kirkcaldy.

*'I walked into the YF just before I went to High School, I still remember the buzz from being surrounded by so many delegates who have become some of my greatest friends. I was a regular church goer with my Mum, but this was a much larger group, some of whom never went to church but all of whom had a faith.'*

*All my memories are about having fun, messing around and never taking anything too seriously. Being able to chat, mess about and joke with the Rector meant I wanted to be at church, to be part of a community. I felt as valued as anyone else, and I was, if not more so.*

*Through YF and those Sunday night adventures and trips I was encouraged to explore my faith, attend the Provincial Youth Camp and that's where I became the Christian I am today. It's why I help run the group now which has ranged from as few as 4 to as many as 30 young adults all of whom grow and develop as people but also in their faith.'*

*Andrew*

Members of the group are encouraged to attend Diocesan and Provincial gatherings, including the provincial youth week and to serve on the Diocesan Youth Committee.



Some of the group wrote down what YF was:

'YF is a fun, welcoming group of young people that meets every Sunday during term time.'

'YF young people meet and have fun doing activities and are encouraged to expand their minds and express themselves and their faith.'

'A place where young people can be comfortable in their own skin and find new friends, new character in themselves, growing and bringing together delegates in faith.'

'YF is a young people's group that comes together each Sunday during term time to take part in activities and is a safe place to explore what the Christian faith means to us and how we can show our faith in our daily life and build God's kingdom in this part of Fife.'

'Fife YF are a group that plan and lead services in Holy Trinity, St. Peter's, Kirkcaldy as well as other churches and occasionally the cathedral. We represent the church at Diocesan and Provincial level, planning events and bringing our group of young people to meet with others across the country.'

*Members of YF*

## Church Groups and Activities

'Holy Trinity's traditional church activities are also complemented by a wide range of exciting and forward-looking initiatives. For example, young members of the congregation have made coronavirus masks, seasonal floral wreaths, and bug hotels in aid of church funds. We have also supported the volunteer activities of some of our young people in their work towards the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.'

*Chris*



### Contact Group

'We in the Contact Group keep an eye on the wellbeing of anyone in the congregation who would appreciate contact from one of our members. Any new member of the congregation is asked if they would like to be included. A list containing their preferred contact details is kept up to date and any issues highlighted at regular Contact Group meetings.'

Some like regular contact, some just wish to be more relaxed about it and say hello in church. If anyone in this category is missing from church for any period, we would then get in touch to see if they need assistance.

This is a wonderful way for everyone to feel involved, to keep an eye on the more vulnerable and look after each other.'

*Yvonne*

### HT 50/50 Club

This group was set up to raise funds for the church. It has 99 subscriptions from 75 subscribers. The draw is made monthly, and their AGM is conducted prior to the church AGM.

## Meditation Group

'We have been meeting every week for several years now. We get a lot of benefit from the quiet time of prayer and meditation and our discussion after is always wide ranging as we come from a mixed ecumenical background.'

*Linda*

## Holy Trinity Friendship Group

The Friendship Group enables social activity between members of Holy Trinity congregation and offers outreach to friends and guests.

It meets once a fortnight on a Monday evening in the church hall for talks by invited speakers with Q and A sessions followed by refreshments.

The group hold seasonal lunches and teas, themed dinners, Burns Supper, international feast, a Christmas party and the annual Pancake party and quiz.



'For my wife and I, as recent newcomers to Holy Trinity, it has proved to be an excellent way of getting to know members of the congregation with whom we might otherwise have had little contact beyond the regular Church services.'

*David*

## The Choir

Holy Trinity has a choir, supported predominantly by a beautiful Hamilton pipe organ, and is led by the Director of Music and organist who currently prepares the music for services.

'We are an enthusiastic SATB choir that supports the congregation with hymns and the sung eucharistic services. We extend that musical offering to reasonably regular post-communion anthems.'



Twice a year we have arranged a reflective Words and Music service, one for Advent, one for Lent where we intersperse short readings with musical offerings as well as communal hymns, walking the way of Christ over these two seasons.

We rehearse weekly for a short period after the main Sunday service, and frequently get together socially to share food and chat.'

*Brendan*

## Prayer Group

Prayer is central to faith and the prayer group is a modest gathering of around 10 individuals committed to praying for each other and our wider community.

Prayer groups operate with different structures, but the important thing is the group are all there to support each other. The group currently meet online every couple of weeks for evening prayer which is compiled by some members of the group to bring different ways of prayer, fellowship, and worship.

'What unites prayer groups is that requests for prayer are gathered and then prayed for by numerous individuals over a period of time, uniting in faith, support, and love for the community. Requests can be anonymous, from people in the church community or friends and family we do not know, just anyone that needs held dear for whatever reason. Any request is made in sacred trust and is kept confidential but raised to God by our group and each member individually in their time with God.'

*Rachel*

## Oblates

'We are a group of committed Oblates of St Benedict affiliated with various monasteries that meet monthly in the church hall. The evenings for a snatch of monastic life, reconnecting us with each other and with our parent communities.

We pray vespers together, enjoy a little light supper while we study something from the Benedictine tradition, and finish the evening with compline.

While the majority are confirmed Oblates, the meetings are open to anyone interested in Benedictine spirituality, the Oblate way of life.'

*Brendan*

## Worship

Worship varies between traditional and modern forms of service, prior to the pandemic and interregnum Holy Trinity had an early Holy Communion 8am service on the first Sunday of each month. Our main service is a sung Eucharist at 11am every Sunday which is accompanied by an organist and choir. There is an alternate Said Eucharist or Service of the Word every Thursday at 10:15am.

In the past church members have assisted in the planning and leading of alternative, innovative forms of worship such as All Age Services, Taizé worship and services during Holy Week.

On a Thursday morning the service usually attracts a core of between 15 and 25 people. The church hall opens for refreshments after both services which allows people to chat, which is important especially for those who live on their own.



Celebrations



Shoppers Carol Singing



Nativity



Christingle Service



Remembrance Sunday



Baptisms



Life Events

Holy Trinity, Dunfermline has good ecumenical links with the Roman Catholic church, Church of Scotland, naval chaplaincy and interfaith work with the local Mosque and a range of other faith communities.

The church has a good relationship with the Baptist Church next door and, from time to time have used their hall, for events and big services.

The vestry are in the process of reviewing the potential to upgrade our facilities to be better suited for pilgrims.

*'Before lockdown hit, some of us were hoping to take part in a walk along the Pilgrim's Way together with other churches. We still hope to do this later in the year and would like our church and hall to be available as a stopping point for rest and refreshments for those undertaking the Pilgrim route.'*

*Linda*

## Online Streaming

Holy Trinity had an active online presence even before the pandemic, with a comprehensive website, and a presence on social media.

The vestry very quickly decided that we needed to continue with live services during lockdown - we felt that the Eucharist in whatever form was a community act, and therefore it needed community participation, something that wouldn't happen if we merely posted a video recording of a eucharistic service. That decision very much drove the way we went technically.

Initially the broadcast was based on a Skype call streamed to YouTube. Later in the pandemic the team got quite adept at this, dropping in videos of members of the congregation reading the lessons, and recordings of the organist playing hymns.

Following consultation with the Vestry, and a recommendation of an installer from our friends at Dunfermline Abbey, the church invested in a permanent camera system for Holy Trinity consisting of three movable and zoomable cameras, and an affordable video control unit at the back of the church, and we have continued live streaming of services since we returned to Holy Trinity.

*'Although many of our viewers are members of the congregation, we have attracted viewers from outside the area, some are friends and family of church members, but we also have former church members who have moved away, but for whatever reason attend Holy Trinity virtually via the live streamed services from across the world.'*

*Richard*

## Property



Holy Trinity, a B listed building, is a town centre church, built in 1891. The church has been well maintained and the last quinquennial survey held in October 2019 found only minor issues.

The church hall, which is adjacent to the church and is part of the same premises, is used by the congregation and community groups. The church and church hall are both centrally heated.

The fine Hamilton, two manual, tracker-action pipe organ, originally built in 1830 and installed in 1891, was extensively refurbished in 1994 and 2017. The work was mainly to refurbish the touch box, which was malfunctioning, and which was also very difficult to access for ongoing maintenance. To aid future work on the touch box it was relocated to a more accessible location and the necessary tracker action was added.



The theme for recent improvements to the church building has been to open outwards and provide a warmer welcome, and creating new spaces in the church.

The first of these in 2019 was to replace the wooden panels in the west door to the Nave with glass to provide an open view into the church from the vestibule.

'2021 saw the addition of new glass doors at the entrance to the porch. As well as improving the appearance of the entrance these doors allow the main doors to be open and visible whilst keeping out the elements through the colder months.'

*Jack*



## The Rectory

The rectory is a modern detached house, with four bedrooms, a kitchen, lounge/ dining room and a study.

There is a large private garden at both the front and rear of the property. It is well located on a small estate about a mile from the church and town centre and within walking distance of the railway station, local schools, and supermarket with a large public park between the rectory and the church.



The Rectory was extensively redecorated in 2018 but the Vestry will consult with the new Rector with a view to carrying out any necessary further work before occupation.

## Transport

It is expected that the Rector provides their own car. However, the Rector is paid a mileage allowance.

Dunfermline has extensive local bus services, and regular longer distance rail and bus links across Scotland and beyond.

## Finance

Holy Trinity meets its expenditure from a combination of regular giving by the congregation and from its reserves. The finances are reviewed regularly by the Vestry. Major items of expenditure have typically been met through fund raising. Most recently, the church funded redecoration of the Church, the new main doors and installation of audio/visual/IT systems with the assistance of funds raised from the congregation, donations and from external grants.

## Fundraising and Charitable Giving

Holy Trinity has monthly collections for nominated charities and hold regular fundraisers throughout the year. One member of the congregation completed part of the local 2021 Pilgrim's Way pilgrimage in aid of Christian Aid.

'Part of our outreach/care for others is our monthly charitable collection, each charity chosen by a member of the congregation. These include both small local charities and large national charities. Regular support is given to the Mission to Seafarers, when the congregation supply knitted gloves, hats and scarfs, the local Foodbank and the Scottish Poppy Appeal.'

*Eve*

## Doors Open Day

The Church participates in the Fife's annual Doors Open Day and welcomes members of the public to explore our historic church building.

Fine Victorian church from 1891 by architect Rowand Anderson who also encased the attractive Hamilton two-manual pipe organ. Enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this fine ecclesiastical building, and explore the features, including the fine reredos, and the lovely Kempe & Wilson windows.

<https://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/places/fife-doors-open-days-west/holy-trinity-dunfermline/>

The Diocesan Profile can be found at:

<https://standrews.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Diocesan-profile-2017 .pdf>



Holy Trinity website: <http://www.holytrinitychurch.org.uk>



*Other social media can be used to connect with Holy Trinity:*

- [Facebook page](#)
- [Blether with HTD Facebook group](#)
- [YouTube channel](#)
- [Instagram](#)



Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, known as Holy Trinity, Dunfermline, is a Scottish Charity, SC015181, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).